1. (currently amended) A method for multicasting data services on an optical network, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) signal from a hub node of the optical network, the WDM signal including a plurality of wavelengths;

separating at least one wavelength from the plurality of wavelengths of the WDM signal;

switching each separated wavelength for multicast data from the optical network to a modulator loop,

modulating each separated wavelength with multicast data;

recombining each separated wavelength with each wavelength of the WDM signal that was not separated from the WDM signal;

switching each modulated wavelength from the modulator loop to the optical network, and

sending the modulated WDM signal to a plurality of subscriber nodes of the optical network for delivering the multicast data.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of separating at least

one wavelength includes a step of selectively separating at least one wavelength for reconfiguring delivery of multicast data.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of selectively separating at least one wavelength is controlled remotely, without

manual changes being made to a device selectively separating the at least one wavelength.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the WDM signal includes a plurality of wavelengths for multicast data and at least one wavelength for non-multicast data.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the steps of switching are performed by a four-port wavelength crossbar switch (4WCS).

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein each step of switching selectably switches at least one selected wavelength.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the optical network is a unidirectional ring network.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the optical network is a bidirectional ring network.

10. (currently amended) A system for multicasting data services on an optical network, the system comprising:

a plurality of subscriber nodes coupled to the optical network;

a hub node coupled to the optical network, the hub node generating a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) signal, the WDM signal including a plurality of signal wavelengths;

~~a selection device~~ an optical switch separating at least one selected wavelength from the WDM signal; and

a modulator ~~node~~ loop coupled to the ~~selection device~~ optical switch and receiving each separated wavelength, the modulator ~~node~~ loop modulating each separated wavelength with multicast data, the ~~selection device~~ optical switch recombining each separated wavelength with each wavelength of the WDM signal that was not separated from the WDM signal and sending the modulated WDM signal to ~~a~~ the plurality of subscriber nodes of the optical network for delivering the multicast data.

11. (previously presented) The system according to claim I0, wherein the selection device selectively separates at least one wavelength reconfiguring delivery of multicast data.

12. (previously presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein the selection device is controlled remotely, without manual changes being made to the device for selectively separating the at least one wavelength.

13. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the WDM signal includes a plurality of wavelengths for multicast data and at least one wavelength for non-multicast data.

14. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the WDM signal includes a plurality of wavelengths for multicast data and at least one wavelength for non-multicast data, and wherein the modulator node includes a multicast modulator modulating each wavelength for multicast data with the multicast data in the modulator node.

15. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the selection device is a fourport wavelength crossbar switch (4WCS).

16. (previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the switch selectably switches at least one selected wavelength.

17. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the optical network is a unidirectional ring network.

18. (previously presented) The system according to claim 10, wherein the optical network is a bidirectional ring network.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)